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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1           1 (Currently Amended). A decoding protection method, for operating on  
2 information which is transferred through a medium and comprises main data which are  
3 to be decoded, the method comprising the steps of:  
4           detecting medium protection data which are also transferred through said  
5 medium;  
6           limiting ~~reproduction~~ decoding based upon at least a film classification system;  
7           generating apparatus protection data which comprise at least first apparatus  
8 protection data and second apparatus protection data,  
9           wherein said first apparatus protection data are specific to a region or a country  
10 in which said main data are to be decoded and are unmodifiable by a recipient of said  
11 decoded main data and said second apparatus protection data can be modified by the  
12 recipient to selectively define a plurality of protection levels including at least two  
13 levels which are respectively specific to adults and to children;  
14           defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and on said  
15 apparatus protection data, in combination; and  
16           executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level,  
17           wherein the combination of said medium protection data and said first apparatus  
18 protection data specifies that said main data are decoded either in their entirety or not

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19 at all, and the combination of said medium protection data and said second apparatus  
20 protection data specifies that said main data are decoded in their entirety, partially, or  
21 not at all,  
22 wherein said data medium transfers both said medium protection data and said  
23 main data in an identical form.

1 2 (Currently Amended). A ~~reproduction~~ decoding protection method in  
2 accordance with claim 1, wherein both said medium protection data and said main data  
3 are transferred in an identical form.

1 3 (Currently Amended). A ~~reproduction~~ decoding protection method in  
2 accordance with claim 1, comprising the step of transferring said medium protection  
3 data and said main data in an identical form.